

a thin, flexible membrane carried by the frame, the membrane being impervious to microorganisms; and
a handle extending from the frame and adapted for being gripped to support the frame and membrane between the mouth, cheek and chin areas of two persons; wherein the membrane prevents exchange of microorganisms between the two persons while the two persons are engaged in the act of kissing.

F
Cont.

2 24. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the membrane is made of polyethylene, vinyl or polypropylene.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the frame is a loop formed into a heart shape such that each lobe of the heart shape outlines a corresponding cheek area of the two persons kissing, the noses of the two persons kissing are positioned between the lobes of the heart shape, and the point of the heart shape extends below the chins of the two persons kissing.

26. 27. (new) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle such that the handle is substantially collinear with the nose of a person when the frame is

5 positioned to outline the mouth, cheek and chin areas of the person.

28. 5 (new) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~ wherein the membrane is removable from the frame.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~28~~ wherein the membrane has a pocket sized and shaped to receive the tongue of one of the two persons such that the membrane prevents the exchange of microorganisms between the two person engaged in the act of French

5 kissing.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~29~~ wherein the membrane is impervious to the human immuno-deficiency virus.

31. (new) An apparatus for preventing exchange of microorganisms between two persons engaged in the act of kissing, the apparatus comprising:

a frame sized and shaped to outline the mouth, cheeks and chin areas of a person;

a sleeve supported by the frame, the sleeve being made of a thin, flexible sheet material impervious to microorganisms; and

a handle extending from the frame and adapted for being gripped to support the frame and sleeve between the mouth, cheek and chin areas of two persons;

wherein the sleeve prevents exchange of microorganisms between the two persons while the two persons are engaged in the act of kissing and prevents contact by the two persons with the frame.

Fig. 1 cont.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~32~~ wherein the sleeve is made of polyethylene, vinyl or polypropylene.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the frame is a loop formed into a heart shape such that each lobe of the heart shape outlines a corresponding cheek area of the two persons kissing, the noses of the two persons kissing are positioned between the lobes of the heart shape, and the point of the heart shape extends below the chins of the two persons kissing.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle.

35. (new) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle such that the handle is substantially collinear with the nose of a person when the frame is positioned to outline the mouth, cheek and chin areas of the person.

12 36. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~32~~ wherein the sleeve is removable from the frame.

9

13

13

37. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~32~~⁹ wherein the sleeve has a protuberance defining a space sized and shaped to receive the tongue of one of the two persons such that the membrane prevents the exchange of microorganisms between the two person engaged in the act of French kissing.

14

38. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~32~~⁹ wherein the sleeve is impervious to the human immunodeficiency virus.

15

39. (new) The apparatus of claim ~~32~~⁹ wherein the sleeve is a bag with an open end for sliding the frame into the sleeve such that the frame suspends the sleeve with a double thickness of material extending across the frame.

Fl
cont.

40. (new) An apparatus for preventing the exchange of microorganisms between two persons engaged in the act of French kissing, the apparatus comprising:

a loop frame sized and shaped to outline the mouth, cheeks and chin areas of a person;

a sleeve supported by the frame, the sleeve being made of a thin, flexible sheet material impervious to microorganisms and having a protuberance defining a space sized and shaped to receive the tongue of one of the two persons; and

14

a handle extending from the frame and adapted for being gripped to support the frame and membrane between the mouth, cheek and chin areas of two persons; wherein the sleeve prevents exchange of microorganisms between the two persons while the two persons are engaged in the act of French kissing.

41. (new) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the frame is a loop formed into a heart shape such that each lobe of the heart shape outlines a corresponding cheek area of the two persons French kissing, the noses of the two persons French kissing are positioned between the lobes of the heart shape, and the point of the heart shape extends below the chins of the two persons French kissing.

16
E1
Cont.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle.

18 43. (new) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the frame extends angularly from the handle such that the handle is substantially collinear with the nose of a person when the frame is positioned to outline the mouth, cheek and chin areas of the person.

19
X 44. (new) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the sleeve is removable from the frame.